

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
San Francisco District

Project Map

SKAGGS ISLAND RESTORATION SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS :

1 st District, Rep. Mike Thompson	3 rd District, Rep. Doug Ose
6 th District, Rep. Lynn Woolsey	12 th District, Rep. Tom Lantos
7 th District, Rep. George Miller	13 th District, Rep. Pete Stark
8 th District, Rep. Nancy Pelosi	14 th District, Rep. Anna Eshoo
9 th District, Rep. Barbara Lee	15 th District, Rep. Mike Honda
10 th District, Rep. Ellen Tauscher	16 th District, Rep. Zoe Lofgren

STUDY DESCRIPTION: Skaggs Island is located within a 10-mile radius of the cities of Vallejo, Napa, Petaluma, and Sonoma and is 40 miles northeast of San Francisco, California. Skaggs Island is located in the center of a 30,000-acre region of biologically sensitive wetlands, the largest remaining restorable wetlands region in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Navy purchased 3,310 acres of the 4,390 acre Skaggs Island in 1941 for military use. The Navy closed its military base in 1993, but continues to operate a high frequency, direction-finding antenna facility, as well as a communications, computer support, and training facility for the Navy and other Department of Defense elements. The Skaggs Island Restoration Project will restore and enhance 3,300 acres of diked baylands to prime fish and wildlife habitat.

The Navy is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps of Engineers to complete the transfer and eventual restoration of the Island. The General Service Administration is supporting the transfer of the Island to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The project will further the completion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program to restore, conserve, and manage the fish and wildlife resources within San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The project would also advance the beneficial use of dredged material from San Francisco Bay as part of the Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS). The San Francisco Bay Region, California, has in excess of 5.4 billion dollars of annual economic activity that is directly dependent on deep and shallow draft navigation channels. The annual maintenance of the navigation channels requires the removal of approximately 5 million cubic yards of dredged material. Pending new channel improvements will result in the removal of another 16 million cubic yards in the immediate future. The LTMS was officially implemented in 1990 because historical in-Bay dredged material disposal sites were filling up, there was no designated ocean

disposal site, and dredged material disposal at almost any location was becoming an issue of substantial controversy. The Strategy was created as a partnership between Federal and State agencies, navigation interests, fishermen, environmental organizations, and the general public. Primary objectives are to identify and make available acceptable disposal alternatives and to address the various regional concerns regarding dredging and disposal. The LTMS objectives are being met through developing beneficial reuse sites for environmental restoration.

FISCAL YEAR 02 BUDGET: \$0

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: Skaggs Island Restoration will follow the recommendations in the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report*, prepared by the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project. The project will restore habitat for threatened and endangered species, migratory water birds, and other migratory and resident species. Restoration of 3,300 acres of seasonal and tidal salt marsh will enhance production of estuarine dependent fish species and reduce the effects of flooding events. The project may also provide a site for the beneficial use of dredged material to restore the site to its original wetlands elevation, prior to restoration of tidal action.

PRESENT STATUS: There are two planning alternatives being considered for the Skaggs Island Restoration Project. In the first alternative, once the Sonoma Creek Watershed Study identifies Skaggs Island as a future project, a Restoration Feasibility Study would be developed. After technical analysis is complete as part of Phase I in the Watershed Study, the Skaggs Island Restoration Project is expected to tier off as its own implementable project. The Sonoma Creek Watershed Study itself was tiered off the San Pablo Bay Watershed Study in order to support the local on-going interest in restoring the Sonoma Creek watershed.

The second planning alternative being considered is the incorporation of Skaggs Island within the existing Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project. A combined project could enhance the restoration processes for both sites due to the hydraulic connection to Skaggs Island and Sonoma Creek.

FUTURE EFFORTS: The analyses of the hydraulic, hydrologic, and sedimentation conditions at Sonoma Creek watershed, including Skaggs Island, is expected to begin in March 2001, contingent on funding. The Napa Salt Marsh Feasibility Study will begin Phase II – Alternatives Analysis in March 2001.